

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00

ERDA-05 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USERDA GERMANTOWN MD

ERDA HQS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4624

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E.O. 11652: JUNE 30, 1977

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SPENT FULE REPROCESSING

1. MAINICHI SHIMBUN JANUARY 8, CITING BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE, REPORTED THAT BNFL WAS PREPARED TO SUPPLY PLUTONIUM TO JAPAN UNDER CONTRACT REGARDLESS OF US VIEWS (FULL TEXT BELOW). UK EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED US TO SAY HIS EMBASSY WAS DISTURBED BY DISTORTIONS IN ARTICLE, INASMUCH AS SPOKESMAN HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO QUALIFY HIS REMARKS TO INDICATE BNFL WOULD MAKE SEPARATED PU AVAILABLE TO JAPAN: (A) IF NEW CONTRACT BETWEEN BNFL AND JAPANESE UTILITIES FIRM; (B) IF ALL CONCERNED US PARTIES AGREED AND; (C) IF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS WERE FULLY APPLICABLE.

2. FOLLOWING IS QUOTE OF ARTICLE: QUOTE. WILL SUPPLY PLUTONIUM TO JAPAN IF NEW RE-PROCESSING CONTRACT IS CONCLUDED, REGARDLESS OF US INTENTION: BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE.

DARK CLOUDS ARE HANGING OVER OUR COUNTRY'S ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, BECAUSE OF THE US MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO WHAT WAS REVEALED BY A BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE ON THE 7TH, BRITAIN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS ENTRUSTING WITH THE RE-PROCESSING OF USED NUCLEAR FUEL, SAYS, "WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPLY PLUTONIUM TO JAPAN, REGARDLESS OF US INTENTIONS, IF A NEW ENTRUSTMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS, LTD. (BNFL) AND JAPANESE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY CIRCLES, FOR WHICH NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY AT PRESENT, IS CONCLUDED." THIS SHOWS THAT BRITAIN, WHICH DEVELOPED RE-PROCESSING TECHNIQUES AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE WORLD, IS

STRONGLY REPULSING THE SCHEME OF THE US WHICH IS TRYING TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THE CONTROL OF PLUTONIUM, AND THAT IT RECOGNIZED JAPAN AS A "COUNTRY NEEDING USE OF PLUTONIUM." IT WILL BECOME BIG COVERING FIRE FOR OUR COUNTRY, WHICH HAS TENDED TO BE PERPLEXED AT THE FIRM POSTURE OF THE US.

OUR COUNTRY IS TACKLING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS OWN DISTINCTIVE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE (SECURING OF NATURAL URANIUM - ENRICHMENT - POWER GENERATION - RE-PROCESSING), PUTTING EMPHASIS ON ATOMIC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM, STABLE SECURING OF ENERGY. HOWEVER, 12 OF THE 13 ATOMIC REACTORS NOW IN OPERATION IN OUR COUNTRY ARE US-PRODUCED LIGHT WATER REACTORS, AND, MOREOVER, ENRICHED URANIUM, WHICH IS THE FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION, IS ALSO IMPORTED FROM THE US. THUS, THE DEGREE OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEPENDENCE ON THE US IS HIGH. THE HANDLING OF ENRICHED URANIUM IMPORTED FROM THE US UNDER THE JAPAN-US ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT MUST BE APPROVED BY THE US EVEN AFTER IT HAS BEEN USED. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, US PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR A NEW ATOMIC ENERGY POLICY CENTERING ON THE PROHIBITION OF EXPORTS OF FACILITIES FOR RE-PROCESSING USED FUEL. ON THE BASIS OF THIS POLICY, HE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OUR COUNTRY TO STOP TRANSPORTING USED NUCLEAR FUEL TO BRITAIN. ON THE 6TH, TOO, HE GAVE THE FOLLOWING NOTICE: (1) ONLY THE FUEL TO BE TRANSPORTED IN MARCH WILL BE APPROVED, BUT THIS WILL BE A TEMPORARY, SPECIAL MEASURE; AND (2) SEPARATE PERMISSION IS NECESSARY FOR THE MOVEMENT OF PLUTONIUM TO BE COLLECTED THROUGH RE-PROCESSING IN BRITAIN.

IN OUR COUNTRY, OPERATION OF THE FIRST RE-PROCESSING PLANT NOW, UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT TOKAI VILLAGE IS SCHEDULED TO BE STARTED SOON, BUT IT IS SMALL IN SCALE (DAILY OUTPUT: 0.7 TONS), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WILL HAVE TO DEPEND LARGELY ON BRITAIN AND FRANCE. ESPECIALLY, THE PLUTONIUM TO BE COLLECTED THROUGH RE-PROCESSING WAS SCHEDULED TO BE USED AS FUEL FOR THE ATR (ADVANCED THERMAL REACTOR) AND FBR (FAST BREEDER REACTOR), WHICH ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT AT PRESENT, AND THEREFORE, THE NEW POLICY OF THE US WAS ALL THE MORE SHOCKING.

THE FACT THAT BRITAIN HAS PROMISED JAPAN TO SUPPLY PLUTONIUM TO JAPAN IN THIS SEVERE SITUATION IS GIVING BIG SELF-CONFIDENCE TO OUR COUNTRY'S ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING MITI. AT PRESENT, ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY CIRCLES OF OUR COUNTRY ARE PUSHING NEGOTIATIONS WITH BNFL OF BRITAIN AND THE NUCLEAR FUEL PUBLIC CORPORATION (COGEMA) OF FRANCE TO ENTRUST THEM WITH THE RE-PROCESSING OF USED NUCLEAR FUEL AMOUNTING TO MORE THAN 3,000 TONS FROM 1982 TO 1990. THE BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE CLARIFIED APPROVAL AS TO PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE SUCH FUEL, SAYING THAT "EXPANSION OF THE RE-PROCESSING PLANTS WILL BE APPROVED 6-9 MONTHS HENCE."

ON THE OTHER HAND, FRANCE, LIKE BRITAIN, ADMITS THAT JAPAN IS A COUNTRY NEEDING PLUTONIUM. CONTRARY TO THE INTERNTION OF

THE US WHICH IS SHOWING STRONG WARINESS AS TO PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION, THE NEGOTIATIONS BY JAPAN WITH BRITAIN AND FRANCE FOR THE ENTRUSTMENT OF RE-PROCESSING IS LIKELY TO REACH THE STAGE OF SIGNING SOON. UNQUOTE.  
HODGSON

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